THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The publication of genome sequences of 3.2 billion bases and around 31,000 genes (14,000 known and about 17,000 predicted genes) of human genome in February, 2001 has ushered in challenges in relation to understanding of functions of these genes, and using these to develop medically beneficial products. The era of genomics has opened opportunities to discover new drug targets. This would ultimately lead to development of novel drugs and therapies that will be cost effective and safe for diseases/disorders. The current therapy which is evidence based would be replaced by "customized" therapy and thus will be very specific.

The recent developments in stem cell biology have also opened new avenues for cell therapies to treat disorders like Parkinson's, cardio vascular disorders, diabetes, neurogenetic disorders, eye diseases, haemoglobionpathies etc. Globally, Biotechnology so far has had maximum impact on pharmaceutical industry and about 30 recombinant drugs are already in the market and about 300—400 products are under clinical trials.

Setting up of CORE

2204. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council has set up Centres of Relevance and Excellence (CORE) in different disciplines all over the country;

(b) if so, how many CORE have been set up so far in Karnataka, discipline-wise;

(c) whether a CORE has been established in Karnataka, for Disaster Management; and

(d) if not, whether in view of the drought and the earthquakes, Government would take steps to set up a CORE on Disaster Management in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far, One TIFAC CORE has been established on Industrial Biotechnology at Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Mission REACH (Relevance & Excellence in Achieving New Heights in Educational Institutes) has already established a TIFAC CORE on 'Disaster Mitigation' at Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee. This Centre will cater to issues relating to many parts of India. In addition, there is a provision for all TIFAC-COREs to interact with each other and also to place useful information in an accessible website.

Seismology Research Institute in Gujarat

2205. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Gujarat Government to establish an Institute of Seismology Research;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Sir, a proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of a Seismological Research Institute. An Expert Group was constituted to concretize the proposal and work out the details including the estimated cost and possible financing patterns and mechanisms. The Expert Group has submitted its report, and action has been initiated for processing the proposal further.

Technology Vision—2020 projects

2206. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) which are the sectors identified for launching Technology Vision, 2020 demonstration projects by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council;